
By: **Delegates DeBoy, Aumann, Boteler, Bromwell, Cadden, Cluster,
Eckardt, Elmore, Frank, Gaines, Goodwin, Griffith, Haynes, Hennessy,
Jameson, Malone, Minnick, Mitchell, Paige, Quinter, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2004

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety - Impersonating a Law Enforcement Officer - Increased**
3 **Penalties**

4 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum criminal penalties for impersonating a
5 law enforcement officer; and generally relating to impersonating a law
6 enforcement officer.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Public Safety
9 Section 3-502
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2003 Volume)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Public Safety**

15 3-502.

16 (a) In this section, "police officer" means a member of:

17 (1) a police force of this State or another state;

18 (2) a police force of a county or municipal corporation of this State or
19 another state;

20 (3) the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division;

21 (4) the United States Park Police;

22 (5) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

23 (6) the Drug Enforcement Administration; or

1 (7) a division of a federal agency the primary duties of which are the
2 investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of
3 federal crimes.

4 (b) A person may not, with fraudulent design on person or property, falsely
5 represent that the person is a police officer, special police officer, sheriff, deputy
6 sheriff, or constable.

7 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a person may not have,
8 use, wear, or display a uniform, shield, button, ornament, badge, identification, or
9 shoulder patch adopted by the Department of State Police to be worn by its members,
10 insignia, or emblem of office, as is worn by a police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, or
11 constable.

12 (d) A person may not, for the purpose of deception, have a simulation or
13 imitation of an article described in subsection (c) of this section as is worn by a police
14 officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, or constable.

15 (e) A person may have, use, wear, or display an article described in subsection
16 (c) of this section with the appropriate authority of:

17 (1) the Secretary of State Police;

18 (2) a police force of another state;

19 (3) the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City;

20 (4) the chief of police of a county or municipal corporation of this State or
21 another state;

22 (5) a sheriff or deputy sheriff;

23 (6) a constable;

24 (7) the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division;

25 (8) the United States Park Police;

26 (9) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

27 (10) the Drug Enforcement Administration; or

28 (11) a division of a federal agency the primary duties of which are the
29 investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of
30 federal crimes.

31 (f) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
32 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding [6 months] 2 YEARS or a fine not
33 exceeding [\$100] \$2,000 or both.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
2 effect October 1, 2004.